

REMARKS:

Claims 36-55 are pending. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 36 is objected to because “and” was improperly used on line 4. Claim 36 is currently amended to remove “and” from line 4.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 36 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,903,694 (Aine) in view of U.S. Patent 6,915,629 (Szymkowicz). Claims 37 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aine in view of Szymkowicz and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,661,973 (Casey). Applicants traverse both rejections because Szymkowicz is not prior art.

The present application is a continuation of PCT/SE01/00934 filed April 30, 2001, and therefore has an effective U.S. filing date of April 30, 2001. Szymkowicz, on the other hand, was not filed until March 7, 2002. Therefore, Szymkowicz does not predate the present application and is not prior art. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 36-55 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but are otherwise indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, however, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 0173.019.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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